



House Committee on Rules  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 17, 2022

Chair Smith Warner and Members of the House Rules Committee,

I am Dr. Calie Roa, President of the Oregon Dental Association (ODA). The ODA is the professional trade association representing over 2100 practicing Oregon dentists in all corners of the state. Our members are committed to increasing access to dental care, ensuring that all Oregonians have access to safe, affordable and quality oral health care.

ODA believes that any potential discussion of a wrap-around or bridge plan, must include dental benefits for all enrollees. Oral health has a major impact on overall health, medical costs, and quality of life. This is especially the case for those who have the biggest obstacles in getting access to dental care – rural and lower income households. Therefore, dental benefits should be included as a basic pillar of health.

We appreciate that the -2 amendment is expected to include some language around dental benefits—however we urge the committee to adopt even stronger language. ODA requests that a future amendment delete, “to the extent practicable” language. Any recommendations should be required to include dental benefits—not to consider them as secondary or only when additional dollars become available. Poor dental health has serious consequences, including painful, disabling, and costly health conditions.

We similarly urge this committee to include a dental representative in the group making recommendations on a wrap around plan. ODA believes that oral health is essential to overall health and such a representative is necessary to ensure recommendations include policy that will both operationally be effective in Oregon’s health care system, as well as ensure that plan includes appropriate dental benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of these additions. We appreciate your work in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Roa', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Calie Roa, DMD

President